

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 558

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to honor those venerable members of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for their selfless acts of heroism.

WHEREAS, in the early hours of Christmas morning, December 25, 2020, Officer Tylor Luellen of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department arrived on Second Avenue North in response to a call of shots fired; he immediately noticed a white RV parked on the street, its windows covered; and

WHEREAS, as Officer Luellen exited his patrol car, an announcement blared from the RV that there was a bomb on board the vehicle and that the area should be evacuated; and

WHEREAS, sensing the dire urgency of the situation, Officer Luellen called for backup; Sergeant Timothy Miller, Officer Brenna Hosey, Officer Michael Sipos, Officer Amanda Topping, and Officer James Wells arrived on the scene shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the six officers sprang into action, going door-to-door to roust nearby downtown residents and usher them out of harm's way; as the officers were doing so, the ominous announcement took the form of a countdown, indicating that the bomb would detonate in fourteen minutes; and

WHEREAS, without hesitation or concern for their own safety, the officers continued their evacuation effort, ultimately making contact with, and undoubtedly saving the lives of, approximately seven families; and

WHEREAS, at 6:30 a.m., the bomb detonated; the officers recall a fierce wave of heat and orange light as the blast knocked some off their feet, shattered windows, and hurled debris that landed as far as several blocks away; and

WHEREAS, what was once a picturesque, historic, tree-lined street was left in ruins, with several buildings damaged or destroyed and more than forty businesses affected; the subsequent consensus was that it was a miracle only three people were injured; these six law enforcement officers were key players in this miracle; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Miller, Officer Hosey, Officer Luellen, Officer Sipos, Officer Topping, and Officer Wells are true heroes and the embodiment of the sacred call "to serve and protect"; and

WHEREAS, we owe these individuals a profound debt of gratitude for their selfless devotion, valor, and composure under unimaginable pressure and life-threatening circumstances; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we pause and honor them to the full extent of our abilities at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Sergeant Timothy Miller, Officer Brenna Hosey, Officer Tylor Luellen, Officer Michael Sipos, Officer Amanda Topping, and Officer James Wells of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for their heroic, life-saving actions on the morning of December 25, 2020, extending our sincere gratitude for their unparalleled bravery and continued service to the people of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.